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P. Willey  
12/02/03

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of: ) Attorney Docket No.: F-418  
EDWARD P. DANIELS, JR. et al. ) Group Art Unit: 3653  
Serial No.: 10/008,903 ) Examiner: Joseph C. Rodriguez  
Filed: December 7, 2001 ) Date: September 22, 2003  
 ) Confirmation No.: 7206

Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING AND REDUCING  
THE AMOUNT OF RETURN TO SENDER MAILPIECES**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE**

Sir:

This communication is submitted in response to the August 27, 2003 Office  
Action.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application. In the August 27, 2003 Office Action,  
the Examiner required election under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to one of the following allegedly  
patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

- I. Claims 1-3;
- II. Claim 4; and
- III. Claims 5 – 6.

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**GROUP 3600**

Applicants hereby provisionally elect to prosecute the claims of species I (claims  
1-3) and reserve the right to file a divisional application or take other appropriate